FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Staff

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our work and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.

Amen

Welcome back! The new school year has certainly commenced with enthusiasm. As I have visited classes over the past week I have been very impressed by the children’s attitude and positive approach. We all look forward to a very productive year full of exciting learning opportunities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Please see the welcome back letter from Dr Tim McDonald, Executive Director – Catholic Education WA on the following page of the newsletter.

NEW STAFF
We have seven new or returning staff at Notre Dame in 2016

- Miss Alex Gerrard  Pre Primary Teacher
- Mrs Lisa Fasolo  Educational Assistant
- Mrs Sharmane Dowse  Educational Assistant
- Mrs Annette Flexman  Year 2 Teacher
- Mrs Kate Poole  Year 2 Teacher
- Mrs Bree Jennings  Year 6 Teacher
- Signore Daniele Foti-Cuzzola  Italian Language Teacher

We wish them well in their new roles at Notre Dame.
**PARENT MEETINGS**

Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend last evening’s information meetings with the class teachers. I trust you found these to be informative. If you were unable to attend the meeting teachers are able to forward their handout information to you upon request. Two items that were shared by all teachers were:

- Our school’s curriculum focus areas for 2016
  - Mercy Charism
  - Mathematics
  - Technology
- Faction T-shirts.
  - Order forms are to be returned to the Uniform Shop as soon as possible.
  - Faction shirts are to be worn on class sport days and the predominantly white t-shirt on Phys. Ed. days.

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS – 2016**

- 28 & 29 January
- 26 April
- 7 June
- 18 July
- 22 & 23 September
- 10 October

**TECHNOLOGY**

The use of technology is very important in our world today. It is not the future for our children, it is their present. The way they embrace and utilize technology continues to amaze me. However, technology is only a tool that is to be used when most appropriate for the task. It is never intended to replace well-researched methodology delivered by skilled teachers and assistants. Its purpose is to enhance the learning process, not replace it.

Notre Dame School has always been at the forefront of technology use, providing the children with the opportunity to engage with contemporary devices supported by high quality infrastructure. To maintain this standard, over the holidays, we have updated our wireless network and servers and purchased additional iPads.

Technology across our school:

- 3 & 4 Year Old Kindy 10 iPads
- Pre Primary 12 iPads
- Year 1 30 iPads
- Year 2 30 iPads
- Year 3 60 iPads
- Years 4 – 6 1 to 1 MacBook programme

In addition to the increased hardware the staff will also be engaged in ongoing professional development throughout this year.
DUTY OF CARE
Throughout last year a number of children either arrived at school very early or were collected late in the afternoon. Our school will only guarantee duty of care of children from 8.10am until 3.15pm unless there are specific programmes, such as homework club, offered by the school. In the mornings staff are busy preparing for the day and there is often review of the day’s work and meetings after school which do not allow for adequate supervision of children. We understand that there will be the occasional one off situation when those collecting children may be caught up and are a few minutes late but, for some parents, late pick up after 4.00pm was a regular occurrence last year. If you have been unable to drop and collect your children at the appropriate times please ensure that arrangements are made to alleviate this.

YEAR SIX CAMP
There is high excitement amongst the Year Sixes as they prepare for their camp to Albany next week. The teachers have prepared an action packed programme that will have the children fully engaged throughout the week. I will be attending the camp and during my absence Carmel Cutri will be in charge.

SUNDOWNER
I look forward to catching up with many parents at the PRC Sundowner next Friday evening.

Darryl Winsor
Principal

ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday 10 February
Whole School Mass @ 8.45am
Notre Dame Church
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the start of the 2016 school year. The year promises to be full of possibilities in all our 163 vibrant, faith-filled learning communities each of which are centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has declared 2016 the ‘Year of Mercy’. This challenges us all to be ‘merciful like the father’ in our daily lives. Imagine the transformative effect our school communities could have on society, if we were to take up Francis’ challenge, in our families and those we work with, as well as those who find themselves alienated, lonely and despised in society. Your school community will be creating a range of opportunities for students and families to honour and celebrate this special year and I encourage you to get involved.

If you are new to our system I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. You are joining Catholic education at an exciting time. We are in a period of significant growth and we have once again demonstrated sustained system-wide improvement in last year’s WACE results.

In the last three years we have opened seven new schools and colleges and 2016 marks the opening of Salvado Catholic College for the first time. I wish the students, parents and caregivers involved in the College’s foundation year all the very best.

All Catholic schools rely on the contribution of the parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to sustain their vibrancy, educational excellence, and faith life. With your support and involvement in your child’s learning, the efforts of more than 11, 000 dedicated school staff and principals can ensure that our Catholic schools help students across the state reach their God-given potential.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Tim McDonald
**Rising Stars 2016 and Emerging Stars 2016**

This year, Notre Dame is trialing an Emerging Stars Program in addition to the existing Rising Stars Program.

The Emerging Stars Program will invite children from Year 1 – Year 3 whose academic results and teacher recommendations identify them as extended learners who are intrinsically self-motivated. Children will participate in the program for one term only, Year 3 in Term 1, Year 2 in Term 2 and Year 1 in Term 3. This program will be facilitated by Miss Danielle Smith and Miss Alex Gerrard. If your child has been selected for the Emerging Stars Program they will receive a letter of offer in the first week of each term.

The format for the Rising Stars Program has also changed this year, with a focus on English in Semester 1 and a focus on mathematics and technology in Semester 2. The children are selected based on their academic results and teacher recommendations. This program will be facilitated by Miss Amanda Sagrera and Mrs Nicolle Achmad. The children selected for Semester 1 will receive their letter of offer in Week 1 of Term 1, and the Semester 2 group will be notified in Week 1 of Term 3.

All meetings will be held before school on Tuesdays. The Rising Stars will commence at 7.45am sharp in the library and the Emerging Stars at 8am sharp in the multi-purpose hall.

Amanda Sagrera
Key Teacher

**UNIFORM NEWS**

The uniform Shop opening times: **Monday and Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Effective **1 March 2016**, there will be a price increase on the items listed below. This is due to our suppliers increasing prices on these items as of July 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Size/Range</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Skirt</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Shorts</td>
<td>4-20</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Sleeve White Shirt</td>
<td>4-16</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track Jacket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Skirt</td>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>$54.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Pants</td>
<td>4-20</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>L/Sleeve White Shirt</td>
<td>4-16</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarf</td>
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<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Kindy Polo</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The good news is that you can call into the Uniform Shop before 1 March 2016 to purchase these items at the current price. You can find current uniform prices on the school website [nds.wa.edu.au](http://nds.wa.edu.au).

Sharmane Dowse - Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator
The canteen will have a new menu starting on Monday 8 February and can be found online or you are able to get a paper copy from the front office or the canteen.

One of the new lines is sushi and this must be ordered and paid for by 9am Wednesdays for lunchtime Friday. Sushi is outsourced so no late orders will be accepted.

Just a reminder that the canteen is not available for kindergarten and is only available to Pre Primary for lunch. Once again I am on the lookout for help if you are able to volunteer even for an hour please come and see me with your details, everyone is welcome.

Next week’s roster
  Monday 8 February: Lindi Sugiarto
  Wednesday 10 February: Kath Seinor & Marcia Whitaker
  Friday 12 February: Luan Dique & Dorina Hortin

Hope to see you at the canteen.

Kayleen McLean - Canteen Manger
CREATIVE KIDS ART CLUB
"Creative Kids Art Club: After School Art Classes for Term 1 2016 now enrolling! Visit www.creativekidsartclub.com.au or Phone 9367 7618 for our class locations, timetable and term dates. Classes are suitable for children from 5 to 10 yrs, all materials provided."

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA
Courses run by Relationships Australia - dates and cost available from the front office
- Building Relationships
- Understanding Stepfamily Relationships Weekend
- Building Stronger Families
- Virtues Parenting Programme
- Parent-Child Connection
- Partners becoming Parents
- Kids and Today's Technology
- Parent -Teen Connection
- NEW Successful Single Parenting

Short Courses and Seminars
- Building Better Relations Seminars (Fly In Fly Out)
- Healthy Conflict Relationships
- Communication Relationships
- Understanding Angry Emotions
- Express Yourself Assertively
- Setting Healthy Boundaries
- Understanding Love - 5 Love Languages
- Healthy Self Esteem
- Mindfulness - Transform Your Relationships

Seminars for Mums
- Mum Raising Boys (up to the age of 12 years)
- Mum Raising Teenage Boys
- Mum Raising Teenage Girls

Seminars for Dads
- Dads Raising Girls
- Dads Raising Teenage Girls
- Dads Raising Teenage Boys
- NEW Stepfamilies - An Introduction

Visit the website for more details: www.relationshipswa.org.au. Telephone 1300 364 277

CENTRE OF FAITH ENRICHMENT
Looking for Soul Food? The Centre for Faith Enrichment is offering two short online courses in Term One. (1) Encountering Jesus Anew in the Year of Mercy: Tuesdays 16th February – 8th March, 12pm-1pm, $20; (2) Dive Deeper: Exploring Faith: Tuesdays 23rd February – 8th March, 8pm-8.30pm, $15. For more information or to register, visit www.cfe.org.au or call 9241 5221. These courses are a great opportunity to explore matters of the soul in a relaxed and friendly way, with no exams or assignments! ALL welcome!
ASCOT KAYAK CLUB

The club is having a “Come & Try Morning” Sunday 14 February 2016, 9.00am to 12 noon.

Recruitment for the Paddle Passport course $100 for term 1 communing Wednesday 17 February (the course does not run during the school holidays). The course is suited for beginners and will cover the basics of kayaking as well as introducing the techniques of Flatwater Kayaking disciplines as well as White Water Slalom Paddling. Experienced Ascot paddlers will coach this course which is suited to children 7 to 17 years. All equipment is supplied.

To register for Free Come and Try Day - Ascot Canoe Website - (Pay/Register for AKC Courses) - http://ascot.conoe.org.au/club-activities/

For more information contact Kyle at akcadministration@gmail.com

CRICKET AUSTRALIA

WACA is conducting a community based Perth Scorchers MILO T20 Blast Centre in Kensington this term which starts Wednesday 17 February 2016 (term 1 week 3). This will give the children the chance to customise their shirts with the name and name of their favourite Perth Scorchers male or female player.

RE-ENERGISTING WOMEN TO RE-ENTER THE WORKFORCE

WILD’C network to support the event will be held on Wednesday 17 February 9am-4pm at The Rise (28 Eight Avenue, Maylands 6051. To register for the event visit : http://www.wildc.com.au/th_event/re-energising-women-to-re-enter-the-workforce/

Contact: Marianne 0409 117 822.

UPS & DOWNS ACROBATIC SCHOOL

Date  : Tuesday 4.30-6.30pm
Cost  : $10.00 per lesson (no joining fee)

Boys and girls 4yrs -adult
Venue: Belmont Sports & Rec Club, opposite Forster Park, cnr Abernethy Rd and Keane Street